

# PEACE NEWS

For War-Resistance and World-Community

No. 665

March 25th, 1949

THREE PENCE

## Two worlds take shape

THE conclusion of the Atlantic Pact decisively terminates what may be called, without avoidable irony, the United Nations phase in post-war relations. From now on proceedings at Lake Success will have little or no significance. The UN functional agencies themselves will be about as important as the exchanges of prisoners organised by the Red Cross during the hot war.

One Molotov guess is as good as another, and I should say that the recent "Cabinet shuffle" in Moscow exactly reflects this situation. With the pattern of East-West relations fixed for the next few years, foreign policy is no longer of primary importance; the best brains are no longer required to conduct it. Consolidation will be the Kremlin's watchword. Molotov, I suspect, will take over the task of incorporating the satellite states completely in the Soviet political system, while Mikoyan devotes himself to strengthening COMECON, the East European counterpart of OEEC.

### Europe undefended

THE Atlantic Pact itself can be studied from two points of view: as a means of waging war effectively, and as means of preventing war.

From the first point of view, it has little to recommend it to a European. Most commentators admit that, if the Red Army chose to ad-

### COMMENTARY by BRUCE ODSPUR

vance to the Atlantic coast with the help of the Communist Parties, nothing could more than delay it. In other words, if, as all Western strategists profess to believe, Russia were the aggressor, the Pact could do nothing to spare the Western Union countries a Soviet occupation—with the possible exception of Britain, which would be rendered un-occupyable by intensive atomic bombardment.

All that America could do for Europe would be to "liberate" it, eventually. But what would be left of Europe? Even if the U.S. airforce refrained from bombing Soviet garrisons and arsenals in Brussels, Lyons, etc., the retreating Russian army would have no reason to refrain from that scorched earth policy which so excited the admiration of Britain not long ago—and "scorched earth" has interesting possibilities in a bacteriological age.

As a means of waging war effectively, the Atlantic Pact is reasonable only on one condition: that Western Europe is regarded by American militarists as Eastern Europe was regarded by the Germans on the eve of their invasion of Russia—that is, if America is the destined aggressor.

### The pact defended

SOME, who admit these conclusions, nevertheless defend the Pact on the ground that its purpose is not to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

### WHO WANTS WAR?

Come and hear

P EMRY HUGHES, M.P.

P STUART MORRIS

U A Conscientious Objector

### DO YOU?

DR. A. D. BELDEN

P SYBIL MORRISON

U A Young Mother

### TRAFAELGAR SQUARE

WAR—WE SAY NO

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, at 3 p.m.

WAR—WE SAY NO

## EX-SERVICE STUDENTS VOTE AGAINST WAR

### US SENATOR CABLES STALIN

### Can we send Friendship Train?

PREMIER STALIN has been asked by a member of the Colorado (U.S.) general assembly to permit the exchange of friendship trains between the Russian and American people. Senator Neal Bishop (Dem.), a Denver chiropractor, made the "consciously naive" proposal, as he termed it, in a cable direct to Stalin recently.

He said his proposal stemmed from the arrival a few days earlier at Denver of the Colorado section of the "Thank you Train," sent by the people of France to the people of the United States as a gesture of gratitude for the American "Friendship Train" sent to Europe a year ago.

According to the proposal, non-governmental, non-political American organisations would exchange gifts and "friendly talks" with similar "church or social organisations" in Russia.

### PEACE TARGET

"The proposal," he said, "is simply that we get the American and Russian peoples into shooting the bull instead of shooting guided missiles, that we start exchanging friendship trains instead of atom bombs."

Bishop's cable, reports the Denver Post, read:

"Premier Joseph Stalin, Kremlin, Moscow: Earnestly request you permit free exchange between Russian and American people of goodwill trains containing gifts of sentimental value and cultural significance as recently came from French to American people."

"Many non-governmental, non-political American organisations would like to participate in collection, distribution, transportation of gifts and also friendly talks with similar Russian church or social organisations."

"UNESCO suggested as one possible medium for plan."

"Will deeply appreciate your early favourable response to above plan or alternative suggestions with a view to meeting the heartfelt desire of us common people of the world to see channels opened for friendship and understanding between Russian people and American people."

"Neal Bishop, D.C., Denver, Colo."

If the cold war should become a hot war, I personally want the satisfaction that I as an individual have done all I could myself to prevent it," Bishop said.

### YMCA's NO TO CONSCRIPTION

A MOTION that "Conscription is necessary in our time," was defeated by 30 votes to 19 after a debate by the Brighton YMCA last Friday.

Lieut.-Col. A. A. H. Marlowe, MP, and Mr. John de Courcy defended the motion, which was opposed by Mr. Victor Yates, MP, and Dr. A. D. Belden.

The audience numbered about 100. It was a private meeting of the YMCA with some members of the public admitted.

## A BIGGER PN NEXT WEEK

AND now we take the plunge... This is the last issue of the small Peace News: next week comes the larger size with its increased responsibility for every reader who wishes to see his paper survive, and still harder work for those who wish to see the circulation steadily rising.

The Forward Fund, launched to meet the increased cost of the larger paper, has a target of £250 to be reached by the end of this month.

But the greatest need is for MORE READERS. From next week we ask every reader to undertake at least one of the following simple ways of propagating pacifism:

1. Send a copy to every sympathiser and local leader of thought.
2. Order two copies from your newsagent, for display on his counter, guaranteeing to buy unsold copies.
3. Tackle street or house-to-house selling, or at your church or other meeting place. Group efforts are specially valuable.
4. Pay a trial subscription, only 3s. for 3 months, for your friends.

A young student at Nottingham University writes that he has joined the PPU and believes it to be "one way of showing the Government how a large body of citizens are opposed to its present policy and will accept unilateral disarmament and any other distasteful but necessary measure for reducing the fear and suspicion of the world." Other letters come in from ex-servicemen who have been introduced to Peace News and find its contents of great value.

How large a body...? How soon...? This is a challenge to all of us.

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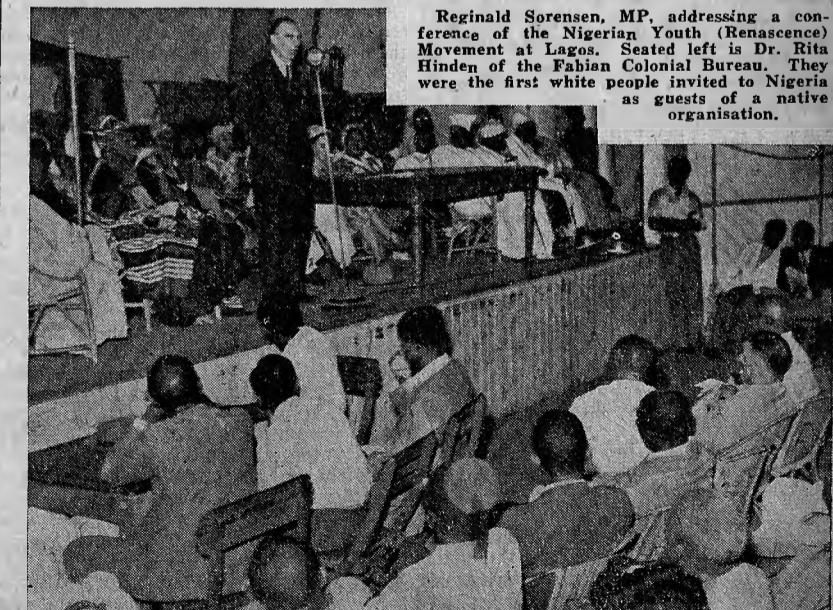
sity.

The contributions to the debate, were, on the whole, on quite a high level. There was a great deal of opposition to Christian support of war, although it was realised by many that it was not a choice between black and white but between two shades of grey. Many of the students who voted for the motion were ex-Servicemen who were disillusioned in the outcome of the last war and who felt that there should be an entirely new approach to the problem.

There were one or two derogatory comments on the debate in the local Press the following day. One editor imagined that the students present would be the "long-haired" variety as the short-haired students would be on the playing fields!

## Reginald Sorensen MP writes on Nigeria

Page three



Reginald Sorensen, MP, addressing a conference of the Nigerian Youth (Renascence) Movement at Lagos. Seated left is Dr. Rita Hinden of the Fabian Colonial Bureau. They were the first white people invited to Nigeria as guests of a native organisation.

# PEACE NEWS

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## Tough Language

LORD VANSITTART'S attack on the foreign legations of certain satellite countries, in the House of Lords on March 9, was front-page news next day. This is hardly surprising. Vansittart is a man of no small influence. The late Dr. Goebbels said that "after the war a monument ought to be erected to him somewhere in Germany with the inscription: 'To the Englishman who rendered the greatest service to the German cause during the war'" ("The Goebbels Diaries," April 24, 1943). A few months earlier (March 21, 1942), he had hailed Vansittart's maiden speech in the Lords as "music to our ears."

This latest outburst, therefore, certainly deserves as serious scrutiny from us as it will certainly be receiving from the British Foreign Office (to which he was formerly Diplomatic Adviser).

Vansittart's jumping-off point, it will be found, was an assertion that it is "part of the Soviet diplomatic offensive to sever the last ties between Eastern Europe and the western world." He continued:

*I say that this "cold war" has been forced upon us, and that it should be fought under proper conditions of equality. . . . The Soviet Government have set up a military diplomatic ante-room, as a branch of the General Staff in the Red Army, which instructs young people in the gentle arts of obtaining information. . . . I think it is right to say that the old diplomacy at least had civilised manners. There is no reciprocity at all."*

Now Vansittart's initial assertion may well be true: only two days later The Times carried a Reuter report that "Prof. G. Brownman (with two other teachers) at the Gorki State Library Institute had been dismissed from his post for 'cosmopolitan activities which harmfully orientated students.'" And those who listened to his speech may well have anticipated an attack on the Soviet Embassy. But not at all! His Lordship, with an eye for the weaker antagonist, preferred to direct his punches against some minor officials of the satellite consulates—not disdaining personal abuse, designed, no doubt, to set an example of "civilised manners."

Finally, "as part of that cold war," he proposed that our broadcasts to Eastern Europe be made "a great deal tougher," and that the London Hungarian Club and the Anglo-Rumanian Society (but not the Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR) be closed down.

Replying for the Government, Lord Henderson expressed a more cautious attitude:

*Lord Vansittart has suggested that we ought to give their diplomatic missions a taste of their own medicine. . . . Let me frankly say that, as a general principle, H.M.'s Government dislike adopting a policy of pure retaliation in what should be peace time. . . . We could not follow the Russians in applying many of their methods here, and I do not think that members of this House would like it if we did. . . .*

That is reasonable, as far as it goes. If Communist methods are wrong, then the obvious thing is not to mimic them. But Lord Henderson might have gone further. While there is, in fact, no reason to suppose that the countries of Eastern Europe wish to curtail the activities of the British Council, for example, they could hardly find a better pretext for doing so than the kind of action Vansittart suggests. If it really is the ambition of the Soviet Government to "sever the last ties between Eastern Europe and the western world," his speech must have been music to its ears. His Lordship should take heart: perhaps he will not be done out of that monument after all—it will be erected somewhere in Russia.

# All is grist....

WHAT is Europe? When I was at school, we were taught that Europe's frontier was the Urals. A few months ago we learned that it was the Elbe. Now I find a commentator of the Anglo-Foreign Information Bureau speaking of "the Hitlerite war on Europe," and it was the United Europe movement, of all things, which opened its Brussels Conference to the strain of "We'll hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line." I shall never be surprised, in another year or two, to hear that Europe's eastern frontier is the Atlantic.

THE same commentator, incidentally, refers to Stalin and his associates as "gangsters." This is surely a wilful misuse of language. If the word "gangster" is to include men who blow up banks and butcher freely for an ideal, than every serviceman in this country, and Mr. Churchill in particular, must be awarded the same title—which, I am sure, is not what this commentator intended.

CULLOMPTON Labour Party, I see, have adopted as their candidate in the forthcoming Devon County Council elections, Walter R. Hillman, of Tiverton. Walter Hillman is Vice-Chairman of the Devon and Cornwall PPU Area, and was from 1944-6 its representative on the PPU National Council. He is well-known in his own part of the world both as a sportsman and a member of the Tiverton Operatic and Choral Societies. His wife is a member of the East Devon Art Society.

ON his way back to New Zealand now is the Rev. Charles Cole, who arrived in England ten years ago

and has, for the last three years, been Secretary of the No Conscription Council. It is Charles Cole's intention to devote his entire energy to pacifist work in the Antipodes, including the building of a branch of "Pax Christi." He tells me that Dr. Belden, the founder of this organisation, hopes to visit Australia and New Zealand himself next year.

Charles Cole's place on the NCC will be filled by Roger Page, member of the PPU National Council and till recently its Development Officer, whose record of opposition to conscription includes several months imprisonment as a CO during the last war.

THE Commons debate of March 11, on the Spelling Reform Bill, was conducted on a quite exceptionally high level. Not more than ten per cent, at most, of the arguments used on both sides had been answered in foregoing speeches; scarcely more than twenty per cent. were directed against claims which no one had advanced. All in all, it was less far from justifying Prof. Savary's description of Grandfather Pitman, "one of the greatest benefactors that Great Britain has ever seen," than any I have previously followed in Hansard.

Mr. Follick, of course, wildly overstated his case: why does everything these days, however intrinsically reasonable, have to be justified in the supposed interests of world peace? But he made hay of the hoary contentions that English poetry would be impoverished—did not Shakespeare himself write "coffing" and "hartake"?—and that our present spelling preserves etymological values. Only a Mr. Donner would have dared, once he had done, to hail English spelling as "England's pride," or to declare that "it reveals the richness of our culture and the many-sidedness of the potent and prolific English genius!"

It took Mr. Bonner, too, to cite

### The Duke and hunting

IN his letter, which you captioned "Humbug and Killing," the Duke of Bedford demonstrated his ability to run and hunt at the same time.

In the first paragraph he joined the fox for the sake of a snarl at the Labour Government, but in the second one he had joined the hunt. As a landowner his dislike of County Agricultural Committees led him to maintain the position in the third paragraph, even to the extent of saying that "good sportsmen . . . refrain from taking risky and therefore cruel shots."

By the fourth paragraph he was back with the fox; but not for long. Before the end of it he had laid down conditions for the abolition of fox-hunting which, if taken seriously, would prolong it for another fifty years.

Is it "good form" for a good sportsman, whatever the term may mean, to pot a sitting bird or rabbit? Hasn't Punch always made fun of the newly rich sportsman who shoots sitters to avoid wasting his cartridges?

May I ask why landowners have invariably forbidden tenant farmers to shoot foxes, and why there is a compensation fund in hunting counties for those who suffer loss from foxes if those animals are only kept down, and not protected, by hunting?

J. E. CLARKE  
185 Shernhall Street,  
Walthamstow.

### Detested sport . . .

IT is surely a matter for deep regret that the Duke of Bedford, noted for his humane and enlightened principles in other directions, should so readily fall into the trap cunningly and—it must be added—dishonestly set by the hunting fraternity, namely that the abolition of bloodsports must inevitably lead to greater cruelty to our wild animals.

Neither of the two Societies championing the cause of these all-too-long persecuted creatures advocates the use of poisoning, trapping, or careless shooting as an alternative to hunting, but the shooting by skilled marksmen. The actual details of how this is to be achieved and organised so as

to avoid the "risky and cruel shots" so rightly deplored by the Duke, would of course need to be discussed in Committee during the later stages of the Bill after it had been passed.

Further, the "extermination" of the fox is certainly not desired by the opponents of bloodsports, in whose ranks are many trained naturalists as well as nature-lovers; it can hardly be doubted that if skilfully and humanely "kept down" in agricultural areas, the fox would become a rare and interesting British mammal, retreating into the remote fastnesses of our mountains and forests.

Finally, in this age of "civilisation," can there be any further ex-

### LETTERS

use for turning the killing of sentient animals (at its best never a pleasant operation) into a spectacular "holiday-show," accompanied by all the ghastly "ritual" of the "presentation of the mask and brush" of the unfortunate victim, and the "blooding" of children? Is the protest of that most humane of all our English poets, William Cowper, to be for ever unheeded? "Detested sport, that owes its pleasures to another's pain."

SYLVIA LLOYD  
Rickview, Buckland Wharf,  
Aylesbury.

### Link with militarism

CONSULTING Hansard, I find that of those voting against the Protection of Animals Bill, 19 per cent. belong to the Services; of those voting for the Bill, 2 per cent.

In the debate, one MP said, "Nearly all our Service chiefs are field sports lovers."

Does not it seem that, until mili-

I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS

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## Words of Peace - No 258

### TRUE LIBERTY

"For it is of little consequence, O citizens, by what principles you are governed, either in acquiring liberty, or in retaining it when acquired. And unless that liberty which is of such a kind as arms can neither procure nor take away, which alone is the fruit of piety, of justice, of temperance, and unadulterated virtue, shall have taken deep root in your minds and hearts, there will not long be wanting one who will snatch from you by treachery what you have acquired by arms. War has made many great whom peace makes small. If after being released from the toils of war, you neglect the arts of peace, if your peace and your liberty be a state of warfare, if war be your only virtue, the summit of your praise, you will, believe me, soon find peace the most adverse to your interests. Your peace will be only a more distressing war; and that which you imagined liberty will prove the worst of slavery."

—Milton.

Spenser's "Faerie Queen"—of all things—as the kind of book that would become inaccessible to students were our present spelling abandoned. If, as the Minister of Education remarked in his reply, a politician did not remain a politician for any length of time, who refrained from choosing his examples to suit his argument, Mr. Donner's sojourn in the House must be drawing to an end.

One thing, however, did surprise me. While several speakers stressed the enormous amount of time wasted at school in the mastery of "our abominable orthography"—an ex-schoolmaster put it at two years—none of them drew attention to a still more striking fact: that the very first lesson an English child learns is the irrelevance, or worse, of reason. It is a fact that may account for many things—among them, the debauch in Parliament.

## The Miller

tarism is exterminated, it will be a formidable opponent to fair play for animals; ergo, don't animal lovers think that, by helping the Peace Pledge Union, they will, indirectly, help their dumb friends?

TOM SULLIVAN

3, Knockbreda Park,  
Belfast.

## THE PPU JOURNAL

### Special AGM Number

The April Journal will be posted direct from Dick Sheppard House to all PPU signatories. Regular readers of the Journal who do not receive a copy by April 5, are asked to write for a copy to Peace News Bookshop, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4., or to their usual supplier.

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You must not miss

### "East and West"

HEINZ KRASCHUTZKI'S

stirring appeal for understanding between Russia and the Western nationis.

Written in Berlin for the last War Resisters' International Conference by one who has opposed German militarism since the '20s and spent nine years imprisoned in Franco Spain

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Back from West Africa, Reginald Sorensen, M.P., writes on

March 25 1949, PEACE NEWS—3

## BRITAIN AND NIGERIA

"WAR begins in the minds of men" is now a familiar aphorism, and if this is accepted, we recognise that there are other than economic causes and incentives for war. Indeed, the main cause is psychological, in so far as it depends on men's needs, their fears and their fears. Peace also begins in the minds of men.

There is no war in Nigeria at the present time, but there is not necessarily a creative peace. Its 25,000,000 population are British subjects in a Crown Colony and a Protectorate acquired partly by military means, and it is certain that should the Nigerian peoples desire to liberate themselves by arms from the British domination they would stand little chance against the violent resources of Britain. Hence it could be argued that Nigeria is held as part of the British Empire by force, and it is the business of all who love justice, liberty and true peace to urge the

abandonment of this imperial possession. In fact, it has been frequently the custom among progressives to denounce colonial imperialism and to demand its liquidation.

The moral content of that remains true, but with a Labour Government in power and an expanded sense of moral responsibility in the public mind, the paramount problem is to find how that moral content can best be implemented, politically and economically.

Is it, for instance, a sound policy to liberate human beings equally from our domination AND our responsibility? An illustration of what this can mean will be seen in the plight of American Negroes after the Civil War.

Of course this issue could be interpreted as simply a plausible and even hypocritical excuse to evade obligations and to obscure our real intention of exploiting the Nigerian resources and people. Here again it is necessary to examine what is meant by "exploitation." Is it exploitation to open up tin and coal mines, to establish schools and hospitals, to stop inter-tribal wars, slave-owning and slave-trading and to establish more humane law, even though this gives advantage, and even more advantage, to the "exploited" than the "exploiters"?

Admitting that Britain too originally engaged in slave-trading and has secured for herself valuable raw materials and markets, is there not some validity in the contention that the net result has been to bestow on the Nigerian peoples advantages which they did not possess, and would not now possess were it not for superior British enterprise, education and economic efficiency? Thus runs the defence of colonial possessions.

### MORAL ISSUES

One answer to this is that notwithstanding any alleged or dubious benefits the Nigerians and other colonial peoples may enjoy on balance between British domination and "independence," it is wrong on principle to retain that domination, and that if Nigerians prefer to live simple, primitive lives they are entitled to do so. Nevertheless, it is the moral strength of this plea that must also compel us not only to acquaint Nigerians with what we may be convinced is needful for all people, but also to co-operate with them in efforts to achieve political and economic well-being.

Such a task is complex and difficult, and yet imperative. Historical, ethnological, psychological, economic and financial circumstances have to be fully appreciated if good-will is not to be frustrated and even add to the difficulties. Take one fact alone, both historical and ethnological:

Nigeria as a political entity is a British creation embracing several peoples, including the Hausas in the Northern Region, overwhelmingly Moslem, and still accepting the authority of their Emirs; the Yorubas in the Western Region, partly Moslem and partly Christian, with Chiefs who are steadily losing their power and a vigorous political life; and the Ibos in the Eastern Region, partly Christian and partly pagan, with no Chiefs but an elemental village and tribal democracy.

### CHANGE NOT WELCOMED

At present each of these view with disfavour and some resentment any possibility of their traditional life being greatly modified either by the British or the other Regions.

It was Lord Lugard who guaranteed to the Northern Hausas the preservation of their Moslem social structure and who established the principle of "indirect rule." In his day it had its value in its respect for native indigenous customs. Yet it has also tended to stereotype that society and retard such development. The Regions themselves were constitutionally established by the present Lord Milverton when Governor of Nigeria, and although the Regional Assemblies were subject to considerable criticism at their initiation, they have proved a success. So also has the Legislative Council with its preponderance of African representatives, although only four are directly elected.

The further extension of self-government, completely to embrace the democratic principle in a form that ensures acceptance by Hausas, Yorubas, Ibos and others, obviously involves immense patience, imagination and courage.

### ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

There is also the economic aspect, closely interlocked with social needs.

Educational and medical services are woefully inadequate, but cannot be expanded without vast financial assistance, which can only be secured either from the real wealth of the country or from funds granted from the British exchequer.

Some £55,000,000 is now available from various British sources, and in addition Nigeria raises some £15,000,000 in internal revenue. In 1947 it exported some £36,000,000 of products to the United Kingdom, and this is an index of increased production. But unless there is far greater per capita production of wealth, or greatly increased financial assistance from Britain how can social services improve and the standard of life rise materially? Beyond this, there is urgent need of trained personnel, for at the present time in the administrative services alone there are very many vacancies.

This is the general background of

### NIGERIA 1949



Photographs taken by Reginald Sorensen, MP, during his Nigerian tour show:

Top: Coal miners near Enugu; Centre: The Emir of Kano outside his palace in Northern Nigeria; Bottom: the guard of a Native Court.

## Pastoral

IT is unfortunate that the majority of people can remember only one thing about the sweet little story of Jonah. Yet the whale is only a minor character: the book of Jonah is the story of a man who tried to evade the clear call of duty.

Jonah felt a great urge to go and preach to the people of Nineveh. Instead of obeying that call, he got into a great ship bound for Tarshish, with consequences which everybody knows. The writer of this parable would have been startled if he could have foreseen that many people would regard his story as history, and that the size of a whale's mouth might even be linked up with tests of orthodoxy!

The lesson holds good in every age. The man who runs away from the clear call of duty will ultimately meet with utter failure. Jonah was given a second chance. "And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah a second time, saying, 'Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.'" This time Jonah obeyed, but with a grudging heart.

I picture this dapper little man, clad in his Sunday clothes, strutting through the streets of Nineveh crying, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" Jonah enjoyed that part of his message. But the people of Nineveh responded to the prophetic call, from the King on his throne, to the meanest beggar of the streets. So thorough was their repentance that they even put sackcloth on their cattle!

Jonah was peeved at the outcome of his missionary efforts. "Therefore I hastened to flee unto Tarshish, for I knew that thou art a compassionate God, and full of compassion, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy, and repented thee of the evil. Therefore now O Lord, take away my life from me, for it is better for me to die than live." Here is a man who

wants to die because he has discovered that God is merciful! He is even harder of heart than the churlish brother in the greatest of all parables.

The lessons of the Book of Jonah are none the less forceful because they are imparted with a playful touch. Indeed, I venture to say, in all reverence, that God, unlike some of his worshippers, has a sense of humour.

Let us remember the lesson of duty's call. Wordsworth says of duty,

Stern lawgiver! Yet thou dost wear The Godhead's most benignant grace, Nor know we anything so fair As is the smile upon thy face. Flowers laugh before thee on their beds; And fragrance in thy footing treads, Thou dost preserve the stars from wrong. And the most ancient heavens through thee are strong.

We often look for the remote task. Duty usually lies near at hand. A popular author wrote a book called *Where Duty Lies*. I refuse to believe that there is any man who does not know, when he communes with his Maker in the quiet of his own inner chamber, where duty lies.

The way of duty is hard. How much easier to stay here on the Mountain of Transfiguration, and bask in the sunlight of the Divine Presence! But God is a God of the plains as well as the hills. We must accept His way, not only in the sanctuary, but in the workshop and the street. Let us stay, Peter said.

No, said the Lord, the hour is past we go, Our home, our life, our duties, lie below, While here we kneel upon the mount of prayer, The plough lies waiting in the furrow there. Here we sought God that we might know his will; There we must do it, serve Him, seek Him still.

The greatest bliss of all is the reward of those who are able to cherish within their hearts the knowledge of duty faithfully performed.

JOHN VINCENT.

### EX-SERVICEMAN'S CREED

THERE are three methods of dealing with evil. First, there is the path of acquiescence and submission. We can lie down passively and permit the forces of evil to engulf and crush us without resisting in any manner, not even by the redemptive force of an opposite example. This is the road of cowardice, appeasement and moral insecurity.

Secondly, there is the policy of returning violence for violence, coercion for coercion, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. It would seem that that method multiplies violence and entrenches evil. It shifts the basis of morality from the level of objective standard and principle to the level of expediency. Thus morality becomes an echo; our code of conduct is thereby determined purely by our neighbour's actions.

The third alternative is . . . the method chosen by Christ and the one recently exemplified in the life of Gandhi. It teaches us that we are to combat violence with non-violence and redemptive suffering, evil with good, and fear with love. Paramount is the necessity of loving and for-giving most where evil is the greatest.

—Atlee Shidler, an American ex-serviceman CO recently sentenced to three years' imprisonment for refusing to register for military service.

a tour the writer undertook recently, with Dr. Rita Hinden, Secretary of the Fabian Colonial Bureau. We were invited by the Nigerian Youth Movement ("Youth" indicating re-nascence and not juveniles!) and in fact were the first British people ever to be invited as guests by an indigenous African organisation.

### MUD PALACES AND MUSKETS

Our journey took us to Kano and Katsina in the North, where we met Emirs in their ancient mud palaces; to Jos among the naked pagans, and Ibadan the site of the first West African university; to Kaduna and Ife (where we were being saluted constantly by the firing of old muskets and a native band of weird instruments); to Abeokuta, whence the Alake had fled from agitation in which the women were foremost, and where a small riot broke out through stone-throwing that hit a woman; to Lagos, with its business houses, slums, cathedral and the decrepit palace of the "King" of Lagos; to Enugu and Onitsha in the East.

We saw market places, mud huts, mines, co-operative stores, hospitals, prisons, schools, palm oil mills, cocoa, cotton, cocoanut and groundnut production, churches, mosques, tropical bush and arid plains; and we talked to or with market women, Christian congregations, trade union leaders, students, officials, district officers, chiefs, medical men and lawyers, Bishops and priests, politicians, servants and workers, and the Governor and Chief Secretary. We also met four pacifists!

### SCEPTICISM DISOLVED

We also met Dr. Azikwe, the leader of the rival organisation, the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons, and managed to dissolve the scepticism of the Ibo Union. Altogether a fascinating experience and one that leaves rich memories of warmhearted fellowship and generous hospitality. Above all it deepens my prayer that in Nigeria we British people may fully seize the opportunity to demonstrate racial democracy and constructive goodwill.

If Nigeria can be assisted towards the attainment of full self-government and social progress, and if this can be done in genuine fraternity, then she may well be a glowing example to Africa and the world of the "more excellent way" that some day must be followed.

It is by such constructive liberation that enmities and fears are transcended and peace becomes a positive reality, instead of a negative pause in those violent energies that threaten to impose mechanical barbarism on our common humanity.

## Letters from Japan, Lebanon, Czechoslovakia

## FROM THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

THE letters appearing on this page have reached Peace News during the last two weeks. We feel that both the facts and the sentiments they convey are of sufficient interest to our readers to justify their publication as they stand, though not all were written with this end in view.

## Stop a second Palestine struggle now

This comes from one of our readers' friends, who has lived in the Lebanon for fifty years, and travelled widely through the surrounding countries; and who, as his letter incidentally shows, is a personal friend of both King Abdullah of Transjordan and Dr.

Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel.

IN 1930 I went to Geneva with Dr. Weizmann and had interviews with the League of Nations. We hoped then it might have been possible to have peace and understanding between Arabs and Jews.

At that time the question of the "Wailing Wall" was very acute, and in Jerusalem I acted as "go-between" for the British High Commissioner and the Arabs in the hope of an understanding. Our efforts failed.

I urged strongly upon Friends in London, when I was attending the Arab-Jew Conference in 1939, and upon the Colonial Secretary, the importance of a settlement, as I saw clearly that the drift was in the direction of war.

## PLEA FOR ACTION

I urged incessantly upon Friends in the United States in 1946, when I was over there, the necessity of acting quickly—and Friends have a tremendous influence for peace and good-will both in the United States and in Great Britain, because of their principles and what they stand for; but they are very slow to act and often when they do act, it is too late. So it was in the case of Palestine.

The work of the American Friends Service Committee is simply magnificent and its influence reaches out far beyond what we can imagine, but I wish, Oh, how I wish they could always act and use their influence before the nations go over the precipice and the calamity takes place.

I have seen King Abdullah several times. He is a good man and I spoke to him about a matter which was very much on my mind and is still there, viz. the possibility of the massacre of Jews in Arab cities such as Baghdad and Damascus; not that I think the government in either or in any place will sanction such a thing as killing Jews but I have been afraid of the fanaticism of the mob when things went against the Arabs in Palestine. The King very kindly promised to use all his influence to prevent any such thing happening, and I am very thankful that, up to the present, nothing to speak of has

happened, except an outbreak in Arabia which was quickly quelled.

At the moment the need of the 500,000 Arab refugees outside Palestine is occupying our thoughts and repatriation of the refugees is the urgent question of the hour.\* I had the pleasure of meeting Clarence Pickett, Director of the American Friends Service Committee and his wife a few days ago and lunched with them in Beirut. Clarence Pickett urged me to go down to Tel Aviv to meet Mr. Shertock the Foreign Minister of Israel and Dr. Weizmann the President, and see what can possibly be done in addition to what he has done in regard to inducing the Jewish Government to allow the refugees to return to their homes in Palestine.

There is a proposition to give them compensation for their houses and lands and get them settled somewhere else, perhaps in Transjordan or the Jordan Valley. But to my mind, that is not only unjust, but impossible. I wrote immediately to Mr. Shertock, the Foreign Minister, and asked for a permit to go to Tel Aviv or elsewhere to meet him and Dr. Weizmann. I have not yet received the answer but I expect it will come.

The two urgent questions of the moment are: the repatriation of the Arab refugees to their homes and their lands; and the government of Jerusalem, which, of course, is a political matter outside my concern.

The United Nations, I think, decided that Jerusalem should be International, but the Jews declare there can be no kingdom of Israel without Jerusalem. It would have been far easier if a settlement had been reached before the war, but the Jews, now flushed with victory, will find it much more difficult to make concessions to the defeated Arabs. But we shall continue to do our utmost for peace and understanding, good-will and co-operation, for that is the only permanent solution.

## IN DAMASCUS

I went to Damascus and had a long interview with Faris Bey El-Khoury who represented the Arabs at the United Nations and was a most able representative—in addition to the fact that he is a thoroughly good, upright man and has the whole confidence of the Arabs behind him. He expects that as the Arabs have lost the first round of the fighting, there will be a second round, if not immediately, by and by. It is that second struggle that should be prevented by finding a solution as acceptable to both sides as possible under the circumstances.

\* Extract from Report of Daniel and Emily Oliver Orphanage, Lebanon, dated Feb. 17, 1949:

This past year has been one of anxiety for the Arab World and especially for the 500,000 refugees from Palestine. The misery and desperation of these refugees are beyond my power of description. We have large camps in Beirut, Sidon, Tyre and many scattered all over the Lebanon; tens of thousands in Syria, Trans-Jordan, Egypt, etc. They are receiving a certain amount of flour, salt-fish and milk per day. Clothes such as blankets have come, but the amount is totally inadequate to the need, and we have a more severe winter than usual, heavy rains and bitter cold. These people have been driven from their homes and their country through conditions over which they have no control, many of them escaped from Palestine on the advice of their leaders. They had no provision for such long absence, and during the severity of the fighting, many of their homes have been destroyed, their fruit crops lost, and so they are now reduced to living on charity. . . .

## Prague commemorates death of Gandhi

A British reader, who has spent much of the past year in Czechoslovakia, makes the following comments in the course of a journey to Prague.

WE were glad to meet Bhikshu Nirmalananda last year, who provided a welcome link with friends at home, as well as with those in other European countries. There were several Gandhi memorial gatherings in Prague on Jan. 30 and 31, and yesterday an overflowing Thomas Masaryk meeting.

Perhaps the crowded Churches are an expression of the people's opposition to dialectical materialism, although I do not think that it may be interpreted as a real revival in religious activity, but only as a form of reaction against the present oppression, even as it was during the years of occupation.

Our friend, Nirmalananda was a

little disappointed with the work here, but I feel that he underestimated the demoralising results of the Nazi Protectorate; there's scarcely a family in Czechoslovakia which didn't suffer some kind of personal loss or torture. Today their outlook is clouded by fear and uncertainty and although, perhaps, many of their doubts are unjustified, they will exist for years to come. It is easy for Westerners to talk and theorise, but how many of them, when confronted with similar circumstances (i.e. when opposition means no work, and no food coupons—or work only in a mine or factory away from home), would be willing to sacrifice not only themselves personally but also their families, who may depend on them?

## In Pastor Shikama's tiny room

The following is from an American Presbyterian Missionary, The Rev. Thomas W. Grubb, who arrived in Japan a year ago. He begins: "Greetings from Japan! I am sure that you in London will be glad to know that Peace News is being read here in Japan. I look forward to every issue . . . and share them with Christian Japanese friends."

A last summer was a three-day visit to Hiroshima. Pastor Shikama met me at the station and guided me through the atomic ruins.

One cannot look upon Hiroshima, and meet the Christian folk there and remain the same. We wandered here and there through the places where once crossed the crowded ways of life, and saw hundreds of concrete foundations where homes once were; and saw many shacks of wood and tin where tens of thousands of folk must live. We were greeted everywhere by the smiles of age and youth alike. Hiroshima has awakened out of its atomic death, and life still goes on.

It was indeed a sobering experience to stand near the base of the steel tower marking the centre of the atomic explosion which destroyed Hiroshima, and which shocked the world. Dr. E. Stanley Jones, one of the great missionaries of our day, has rightly said that that bomb did not fall upon Japan alone, but it fell on the conscience of humanity. I thought of Japan's sins, and of America's sins which led to this tragic event, and I realized anew the need for the forgiveness which only God can give.

In Pastor Shikama's tiny room where he, his wife and three sons were living I heard from their lips the story of what happened on August 6, 1945, at 8.15 a.m. Sitting on the floor in Japanese style, I experienced anew the depth of the Christian fellowship which binds our world together. We prayed and sang hymns together to Him who is the Lord of all nations. I departed from their home with a greater hope than I had had before, and with a greater determination to do God's will as it is revealed to me. I realized anew what a small thing it is to be a Japanese or an American, but what a privilege and responsibility it is to be a Christian.

On the day of the Peace Festival, three years after the destruction of Hiroshima, Hiroshima's mayor pleaded with the nations of the world to renounce war, and during his speech\* British and American fighter bombers roared over Hiroshima! I thought "What poverty of spirit and lack of insight and imagination on the

part of the Occupation Forces." I think that if Caesar Augustus had had aeroplanes and had known that a greater one than he had been born in Bethlehem, he would have sent his planes roaring over the manger!

Some of the Christian young people of Japan are aware that theirs is the only nation in the world which constitutionally denies itself the right of war making. I try to help these young Japanese have a new sense of pride in Japan, so that they will help to make this truly a nation of peace.

For six months here in Yamaguchi I taught a class of English conversation in the Boys' High School, and shall never forget the words which one lad spoke. He said, "No Japanese has ever won the Nobel Peace Prize. Of this fact we Japanese ought to be ashamed. If Japan does not from now on make a contribution to the peace of the world then our existence as a nation will be meaningless."

Many of the Christian youth of this land of Japan are thinking in these terms, but we need many more who will think this way and then live and do this truth.

Much of Japan today is a spiritual vacuum. Many people have not yet recovered from the stunning shock of defeat, for the Japanese had been taught that Japan was invincible.

Christian youth of Japan are interested in writing to Christian youth of other lands. Some of the young people here are writing to Christian friends in America. Are there young people in England who want to stretch out the hand of Christian brotherhood and reconciliation to Japan? If so I would be glad to receive several names and give them to youths in Japan.†

There is not much "official" pacifist activity here now, but there are some Japanese who have come to realise deeply that no war can be justified. Many missionaries are either pacifists or are deeply sympathetic with the world peace movements. The work of daily kindness and reconciliation are witnesses to the truth that God is love.

\* Peace News, Sept. 10, 1948.

† The Rev. Grubb's address is: 13 Noda Cho, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Ken, Japan.

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# Housewives' Choice

Scene: A tea-shop

Mrs. A (passing over her paper, and attacking a double-ice): Isn't it dreadful?

Mrs. B (slicing her bun and marge): Seems to get worse and worse.

Mrs. A: Disgusting! That's what I call it. And the war over nearly four years.

Mrs. B: A fine sort of peace.

Mrs. A: Peace and plenty, I don't think!

Mrs. B: All those millions: and yet we can't pay our way.

Mrs. A: They can always get it for themselves. There's no shortage of some things.

Mrs. B: It makes you wonder who to vote for next.

Mrs. A: I know who I WON'T vote for. It's always the same. Give

## THE ASIAN SCENE

Asian Horizon (Asian Publications, Ltd., Quarterly 3s. 6d.) is a unique publication in that it seeks to present a picture of not just one national state, but a whole series of them, all separate, many in conflict with each other, and succeeds in maintaining a high standard of objectivity.

We in the Western hemisphere are lamentably ignorant of Eastern affairs. We are vaguely cognisant of the civil war in China and of Japan's attempts to rehabilitate herself; India and Burma have made the headlines since the end of the war, but only in relation to our own affairs. Probably through laziness, we lack a comprehension of the Asian scene: Asian Horizon serves a useful purpose in giving us an opportunity to view it as a whole.

J.T.

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with one hand and take away with the other.

Mrs. B: Hasn't everyone had enough of it?

Mrs. A: THEY'VE got enough, don't you worry!—and never mind about queueing.

Mrs. B: You'd think SOMEBODY would try and find a better way.

Mrs. A: They'll find a way to save their faces, artful lot. Next thing we'll all be turned out to graze in the National Parks. If you ask me, that's what's behind them.

Mrs. B: Better than burrowing underneath, like a lot of frightened rabbits.

Mrs. A: Pity we're not rabbits and done with it. We shouldn't have to worry then. But, really, we'll soon be afraid to go home.

Mrs. B: And afraid to go out.

Mrs. A: I daren't look the old man in the eye.

Mrs. B: I daren't look the young men in the eye.

Mrs. A: It makes me boil to think of it.

Mrs. B: It's wicked. It shouldn't be allowed.

Mrs. A: We're fools to stand for it. We want to make a row.

Mrs. B: Oh, if only we could DO something!

Mrs. A: We'll show them! We're not just here to be trampled on.

Mrs. B: And smashed to bits. It's horrible!

Mrs. A: You feeling all right?

Mrs. B: It's rather warm.

Mrs. A: Can I fetch you an ice, dear? A chocolate éclair?

Mrs. B: I'm not very hungry, thank you.

Mrs. A: (getting up): What I say is, make the most of what you CAN get.

Mrs. B: (getting up too): While you can get it. There isn't much time.

Mrs. A: They're not closing yet. Shan't be a tick.

Mrs. B: I've got to go. I can't stand it. It's too much!

Mrs. A: Too little! It's no joke.

Mrs. B: No, it's terrible...

Mrs. A: Yes, isn't it dreadful...

*In unison:*

Mrs. B: ... £760 million for rearmament!

Mrs. A: ... 2d. off the meat!

M.T.

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## Pacifist Profiles

March 25, 1949, PEACE NEWS—5

XXXII

ROBERT PORCHET was only nineteen when, with many misgivings, he allowed himself to be conscripted into the French Army. Military training did not banish his doubts and a bayonet charge brought matters to a head. Hearing a German boy screaming "Mutti! Mutti!" as he fell to the ground, he decided there and then that he had done with war.

He deserted, and was later sentenced to twenty years penal servitude in French Guiana, on a questionable charge of trafficking in false passports. For two years, until the end of World War I, he was kept in a prison in France, then transported, in the cage of a convict ship.

In French Guiana, 50 per cent. of the prisoners died within their first twelve months. Robert Porchet survived to become a *liberté*. It was the custom then for "liberated" convicts to be held in Guiana for a length of time equal to their sentence, or, if the sentence exceeded seven years, for life. *Libertés*, however, were often in a worse state than the prisoners themselves, being exposed to tropical conditions without any provisions and little opportunity for work. He himself was lucky enough

to obtain employment with the prison doctor.

The War Resisters' International made contact with him, and were endeavouring to get him a pardon, when he was charged with being in communication with a Communist organisation—and banned both from Cayenne, the capital and from all roads leading to it. He was thus forced into the jungle, where most men lost their way and perished. Ill and starving, he himself stumbled upon a native settlement, whose inhabitants were uncivilised enough to feed him and nurse him back to life!

There he remained for several years—during which the WRI once more established contact. Eventually, thanks to the intervention of the French Section, he was granted a pardon and allowed to return to France. Robert Porchet is now active in the organisation of the Section, and was lately elected a member of the WRI International Council.

## FROM THE NORTH...

As in previous years the Orebro Peace Mission, Sweden, has been making a special winter collection in order to be able to send food parcels to needy pacifists in Germany.

\* \* \*

Danes are helping to rebuild five of the seven churches which were destroyed in Finland during the war.

## A NEW PACIFIST LITERATURE LIST

The April issue of the PPU Journal, now on sale, contains the annual reports of the Peace Pledge Union and its associated bodies and undertakings, together with accounts and balance sheets. Also included is a revised list of recent pacifist literature.

Copies may be obtained from Dick Sheppard House, 6, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1 or from Peace News Bookshop, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4. Price 4d. (5d. post free).

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Our displayed advertisement rates remain at the low rate of 10s. per single column inch and we shall welcome enquiries from readers wishing to make use of this service.

# Support for Prof. Noack grows

## COMMENTARY CONTINUED

win but to prevent a war. An alliance, however, is only an effective deterrent if it is first an effective weapon, and this the Atlantic Alliance is not. America will not be any stronger for European reinforcement; and a neutral, disarmed Europe, guaranteed by America, would be at least as safe from Russian aggression as one armed to the teeth and harnessed to the transatlantic chariot.

In any case, is an armaments-race between East and West more likely to prevent war than to precipitate it? Clearly, the vast and increasing diversion of the world's resources to military preparations must aggravate the existing food-shortage, and thereby intensify political discontent.

It is either Marxist or mad to talk of "poverty breeding Communism," as though hungry men automatically thought in terms of dialectical materialism, or ceased to do so when they were filled. (Karl Marx did not write "Capital" because he was poor; he was poor because he wrote "Capital.") But it is true that poverty can be exploited by Communists: and Article 4 of the Pact provides for joint action in the event of a Communist coup within any of the participating states.

Moreover, there it at least one wide area where poverty does the opposite of breed Communism, namely the USSR. Here the shortages which result from a colossal military budget must jeopardise the existing regime: and, as Communists so cogently argue, a ruling class will often seek refuge in war, rather than give way to revolution.

For these and other reasons, I am afraid that I, for one, cannot join in that "sigh of relief," which, according to last week's *Economist*, should be heard all over Europe at the signing of the Atlantic Pact. There is not the slightest reason to believe that the Pact will achieve either of its professed objectives. It is one more milestone on the road to war—a war in which Europe will perish.

### Suicide or martyrdom

WITH the Pact as a symbol of the West's determination to resist totalitarian domination, I have, of course, no quarrel at all. Like Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Middleton Murry, I would rather a people perished in the attempt at resistance than that they failed to resist at all. But when it is clear as it is today that, so far as Europe is concerned, military resistance can mean nothing other than perishing, I am quite unable to see wherein its advantage lies over resistance by non-violent methods.

There is only one sure way of preventing war today, and that is total disarmament on the part of the Western Powers. But even that gradual and piecemeal disarmament which is the political expression of pacifism—the renunciation of war by individuals—appears hardly less dangerous than the policy at present being pursued. Indeed, were such disarmament the obverse of a steady and cumulative endeavour to reconstruct our economy on peaceable lines, it would have infinitely more to be said in its favour: for that is the one endeavour that might, in the long run, shake the dogmatism of those who held that Communism is the sole guarantee of peace. It is our present

economy, not our armaments, that the Soviet rulers fear.

### Neutralisation

JUST when the possibility of European neutrality—the condition of any large-scale economic reform—seems to be vanishing out of sight, it is reported that Prof. Noack's scheme for the neutralisation of Germany is receiving widespread support, in the Russian as well as the Western Zones.

What this portends is doubtful. But it is probable, for many reasons, that the Russians would like to see Germany evacuated by all the occupying Powers. One reason, which is of particular interest, emerges from a report in *Worldover Press* by the pacifist correspondent, Henry Holm. Writing from Berlin, Holm says:

"The Russians appear to be spy-mad, and it is a mood which affects their own nationals as well as others. A young Soviet soldier, for example, had become accustomed to paying visits to a German family. One day he stayed beyond the time when he was supposed to be back in barracks, and when he left he said, 'If questioned, remember you don't know me. He was never seen again, but one day later, another Russian soldier came and left a note scribbled on a scrap of paper, explaining that the first soldier had been sentenced to eight years of hard labour for 'espionage.' ONE REASON FOR THE CONTINUOUS SPY-SCAPE IN THE RUSSIAN SECTOR IS THE SERIOUS BREAKDOWN IN MORALE AND LOYALTY AMONG SOVIET TROOPS IN THE RUSSIAN ZONE OF GERMANY. DESERTIONS HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE FREQUENT."

The last sentence confirms an earlier, though less reliable, authority, *The Observer*.

Are the conquered once more leading conquest captive? And if a demoralised population can so speedily demoralise a totalitarian government, how long would a moral one take to moralise it?

### Vox populi

THERE can, alas, be no doubt that the overwhelming majority of the populations west of Switzerland, Germany and Sweden—the constituents of Prof. Noack's projected *cordon sanitaire*—either actively or passively favour the Atlantic Pact: just as the overwhelming majority of Britons believe that the export-drive can restore our vanished fortunes.

In face of such majorities, we ourselves must sometimes pause and ask, "Can they all be mistaken? Is there, after all, some factor we have overlooked, obvious to everyone but ourselves?" How much more easily will the non-pacifist brush aside our gloomy contentions, and the remedies we propose!

Yet there the evidence is; and if there is any one fact so obvious that it is always overlooked, it is surely this: that the majority of Europe's population was wrong from 1939-45. Otherwise, how could the War have happened?

This will probably be my last Commentary, so perhaps the occasion is appropriate for a quotation from the previous Editor of *Peace News*. These words were written by John Middleton Murry in February, 1940:

"Now many of the bright intellects are saying that when peace comes it must be a real peace instead of a sham one, and they are making all kinds of ingenious plans to secure that real peace they desire. . . . When peace comes. There's the rub. What if peace never does come? . . . But this is a nonsensical idea, it may be said. Peace must come. Must it? I see no reason why I should exclude from my mind the possibility that we have entered on a period of permanent and endemic war; or that a process of disease which has been in reality continuous since 1914, has now reached its acute stage from which there is no going back. . . .

Who was right?

## WORDS ARE DEEDS

### Clear Speech is Persuasive

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## GREEK COs EXECUTED Appeals ignored

PROTESTS have been made to the Greek Embassy in Washington and Greek Government following the recent execution of two Greek conscientious objectors, John Tsoukaris and George Orphanidis. Both were Jehovah's Witnesses.

In the USA four organisations, The Socialist Party, The War Resisters' League, The Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Workers' Defence League have sent a letter of protest to the Greek Embassy in Washington.

In it they express their "great shock at this move by the Greek Government directed against the human right to freedom of religion and conscience. This execution, coming at a time when the Western world is alleging that the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary is a fundamental violation of religious convictions, exposes the frailty of those who point to the inhumanity and totalitarian actions of others and then indulge in acts that are equally unjust and brutal."

It was hoped that earlier appeals might have been successful in the case of George Orphanidis, but the British Foreign Office have confirmed that he was executed on March 2, following a Court Martial at Nauplia.

## Sybil Morrison's CAMPAIGN COLUMN

TRAfalgar Square is a memorial to an Admiral of the British Navy and a British naval victory, yet it is one of the most famous of all open-air forums, which militarists and pacifists alike have used for their demonstrations.

There is something dramatic about its use for peace propaganda. Every pacifist who possibly can, should be there on Sunday afternoon, April 3, it is their day. Their presence there will be as important as that of the speakers themselves. Passers-by are interested by the sight of a big crowd, and the microphones will carry our message to every person who stops to see what is going on.

The eleven letters *PAX NOT FACTS* will be displayed on the plinth at the demonstration. Eleven volunteers are required for this purpose who will meet me in Trafalgar Square at 2.30 p.m. The poster parade which was planned to leave Dick Sheppard House at 2 p.m. has been banned.

Every single person has a part to play, for the speakers are nothing without an audience. Ten thousand people going home and telling 10,000 other people who will tell thousands more, of the words they heard in Trafalgar Square, is the answer to the Press boycott of our meetings. By that means the whole country can ring with the news of a great concourse of people gathered in the centre of London to raise their voices against war.

### NEVER MORE TIMELY

Never was the moment more timely; governments are continuing to think and act in terms of "collective security" as though there were no lesson to be learned from the past attempts at such "security." A military pact of the Western Powers is hailed in this country as the greatest peace movement that the world has ever known. (I wonder if, in Russia, it is called a "peace offensive"?)

It would seem that nothing could be more retrogressive than the resort once again to huge collective armaments as a way to peace, and if no one else will raise a voice against this bitter futility, pacifists must and will.

There stands Nelson's Column in the very heart and centre of London, in sight of the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace, flanked by the National Gallery, Dick Sheppard's own church and Nurse Cavell's statue, whose words, as famous now as Nelson's own, so passionately contradict everything for which Trafalgar stands.

Nelson's "England expects every man this day to do his duty" was a great call to patriotism; it was a woman who voiced the profound truth that "patriotism is not enough. It has been proved that it is no answer to the patriotism of others, as 'collective security' is no promise of security to others."

Patience, tolerance, goodwill, trust, understanding and renunciation of the war method are the true "collective security" which will remove suspicion and fear from the peoples of the world and lead on to the peaceful society in which war will have no place.

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**Sheffield:** Memorial Hall, 7.30. Friday, March 25, John Rankin, MP, Sybil Morrison.

**South Norwood:** Friday, March 25, 8 p.m. Norwood Girls' School Hall, Birch Lane, Audrey Jupp, Union of Democratic Control, and Phyllis Vallance, PPU.

**Harpden:** Tuesday, March 29, Friends Meeting House, 8 p.m. Sybil Morrison "The Alternative to War."

Consultations by appointment

### TOM KEELL WOLFE

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